

CLAIMS:

1. An ultrasound machine, comprising:
a user-interface assembly including a user-interface input section having a plurality of controls;
an ultrasonic transducer for transmitting and receiving ultrasonic waves;
a screen for displaying an ultrasound image;
a control unit coupled to said user-interface assembly, said screen and said transducer to enable control of said transducer, processing of the received ultrasonic waves and control of the images displayed on said screen via said controls of said user-interface input section; and
a remote control device wirelessly coupled to said control unit and including only a portion of said controls of said user-interface input section to enable remote control of said transducer, of the processing of the received ultrasonic waves and of the images displayed on said screen.
2. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said portion of said controls on said remote control device includes predetermined, most frequently used controls of said controls on said user-interface input section.
3. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said portion of said controls on said remote control device includes at least one of a focus adjustment control, a gain adjustment control, a depth adjustment control and a mode selection control.
4. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said portion of said controls on said remote control device includes a focus adjustment control, a gain adjustment control, a depth adjustment control and mode selection controls.
5. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said remote control device includes a processing unit coupled to said portion of said controls for forming and transmitting wireless (RF) signals based on manipulation of said portion of said controls.
6. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said control unit and said remote control device comprises cooperating communication means for enabling transmission and reception of signals at least from said remote control device to said control unit.
7. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, further comprising a housing, said control unit and said user-interface assembly being arranged in connection with said

housing, said housing including mounting means for detachably mounting said remote control device on said housing.

8. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said remote control device includes a touch screen programmable to display said portion of said controls.

9. The ultrasound machine of claim 8, wherein said touch screen includes a pointing region for enabling positional adjustment of an indicator on said screen.

10. The ultrasound machine of claim 8, wherein said remote control device further includes a trackball for enabling positional adjustment of an indicator on said screen.

11. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said remote control device further includes an adjustable pointing mechanism for enabling positional adjustment of an indicator on said screen.

12. The ultrasound machine of claim 11, wherein said pointing mechanism is a trackball.

13. The ultrasound machine of claim 1, wherein said remote control device includes attachment means for attaching said remote control device to an object.

14. The ultrasound machine of claim 13, wherein said remote control device includes a housing, said attachment means being arranged on a rear surface of said housing.

15. The ultrasound machine of claim 13, wherein attachment means comprises a pair of clamps, springs for coupling said clamps to one another and a handle for moving one of said clamps toward the other of said clamps.

16. A method for enabling ergonomic placement of controls of an ultrasound machine, comprising:

transmitting and receiving ultrasonic waves via an ultrasonic transducer;

processing the received ultrasonic waves to generate an image;

displaying the image generated from the received ultrasonic waves on a screen;

providing a user-interface assembly including a user-interface input section having a plurality of controls for enabling control of the transmission, reception and processing of the ultrasonic waves and images displayed on the screen;

arranging only a portion of the controls of the user-interface input section on a remote control device; and

coupling the remote control device via a wireless connection to a control unit housed in the ultrasonic machine to enable wireless control of the transmission, of the reception and processing of the ultrasonic waves and of the images displayed on the screen via the controls on the remote control device and to enable a sonographer to place the remote control device in an ergonomically pleasing position.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising selecting the portion of the controls on the remote control device to be predetermined, most frequently used controls.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the remote control device includes a programmable touch screen, further comprising programming the touch screen to display the portion of the controls.

19. The method of claim 13, further comprising programming the touch screen to display a pointing region for enabling positional adjustment of an indicator on the screen.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising arranging a trackball on the remote control device for enabling positional adjustment of an indicator on the screen.